

a resilient member, distinct from the elongate tube, having an opening therethrough defining an inner diameter and disposed in the cavity so that the opening is substantially aligned and in fluid communication with the open passageway; and

a clamp selectively moveable between a first position wherein the resilient member is undeformed and a second position wherein the resilient member is deformed such that the inner diameter of the opening is changed through at least a portion of the resilient member.

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20 (New). The needle of claim 19 wherein the clamp comprises a deformable U-shaped member having an apex and two legs, wherein a living hinge is disposed at the apex and a latch is disposed on the legs for securing the legs in a relatively fixed position.

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed March 27, 2002, the Examiner rejected claims 1-18 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,613,953 to Pohndorf ("the '953 patent"). As discussed below, the claims are believed patentable over the art of record and this rejection is respectfully traversed. New claims 19-20 have been added to define aspects of the invention and are believed patentable over the art of record as well. Reconsideration of claims 1-18 and examination of new claims 19-20 are respectfully requested.

Aspects of the instant invention are related to an epidural needle that permits the caregiver to selectively control the flow through the needle. Specifically, as set forth in claims 1 and 10, the epidural needle includes an elongate tube attached to a hub. A hollow bore in the tube is aligned with an open passageway in the hub. The hub includes